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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **CONTACT: (916) 654-3304**
June 07, 2012

California Releases the First-Of-Its-Kind
Public HIPAA Security Rule Toolkit

Providing California an online resource to conduct a basic risk assessment

SACRAMENTO - The California Health and Human Services Agency's (CHHS), Office of Health Information Integrity (CalOHII) today announced the release of its Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule Toolkit. The online toolkit will provide aid to organizations in California to help them better understand the requirements of the HIPAA Security Rule, and assist organizations in implementing HIPAA requirements. The online toolkit can be accessed on the CalOHII website: http://ohii.ca.gov/calohi/.

HIPAA established national standards for the protection of certain health information that is held or transferred in electronic form. These national standards operationalize protections by addressing the technical and non-technical safeguards that organizations must implement to secure electronic protected health information.

"This new tool will allow organizations to assess their level of compliance with Federal HIPAA requirements, as well as areas where they have opportunities to strengthen their programs," said Pamela Lane, Deputy Secretary, Health Information Exchange. "This represents the first offering of its kind in California, and will serve as a tool in assisting our provider communities in the complex security arena."

The CalOHII works in support of the CHHS's health information exchange (HIE) initiatives, oversees the collaborative statewide development and implementation of privacy and security policy for the electronic exchange of health information, enforces state law mandating the confidentiality of medical information and ensures uniform and cost effective HIPAA implementation.